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You are informed that preliminary measures have been taken for regaining the control of Craney Island by the Service, and you will be notified as soon as the Service becomes in possession of that island and will be prepared to make such recommendations concerning its use by the State or local authorities as may seem to you advisable.

It is desired that the State and municipal authorities should eliminate smallpox from the State of Virginia as soon as possible.

You will render your pay and traveling expense accounts in the usual manner to the Bureau. Report transactions once a week or oftener, and at the close of your duty make full written report.

You will wire the Bureau when your services are no longer needed, when orders will be sent directing return to your station.

Respectfully, yours,

WALTER WYMAN,
Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

C. P. WERTENBAKER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report of Passed Assistant Surgeon C. P. Wertenbaker on the smallpox situation in southeast Virginia.

NORFOLK, VA., April 30, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of my transactions while on special duty in connection with smallpox in Virginia, for the week ended April 29, 1899. I reported for duty to Governor J. Hoge Tyler, at Richmond, Va., April 22, 1899. I was assigned to duty with the governor's staff, and directed to confer with the State board of health, and to visit such places in the State as I saw fit. After conference with the executive committee of the State board, it was determined that I should visit Warwick County first. The governor sent a request to each of the 3 supervisors of Warwick County to meet Dr. Paulus A. Irving, secretary of the State board of health, and myself, at the Warwick Hotel, at Newport News, at noon on April 26. At that hour 2 of the supervisors, S. A. Morse, a colored man, and C. H. Burnham, a white man, met us for a discussion of the smallpox situation. Dr. J. R. Bagby, president of the Newport News board of health, was also present. We made a statement of the conditions existing in Warwick County, showing that smallpox cases were unrestrained, and that no efforts were being made to stop its spread; that these cases were constantly coming into Newport News and adjacent cities, keeping up the infection in those places. We explained the necessity for stamping out the disease at once and restricting its further spread. Our astonishment can better be imagined than described when S. A. Morse, the colored member of the board of supervisors, who seemed to be the spokesman, informed us that the supervisors did not consider the disease smallpox; that in their opinion vaccination, instead of protecting against the disease, increased its virulence, but that under any circumstances the board did not propose to take any action whatsoever, that nothing was now being done, and nothing would be done by their board. No arguments could shake them from their position; therefore,

the secretary of the State board informed them that it would be necessary to quarantine the entire county, including Newport News, and I stated that I would recommend that the city and county be declared as infected, and be quarantined against. The supervisors expressed their incredulity and disbelief that we could do anything of the kind, and the conference was at an end. Realizing the detriment a quarantine would be to the growing city of Newport News and the various large interests centered there, we determined to consult with the city authorities to see if they could not take some action for the purpose of stopping the spread of the disease in the county. With the prospects of a close quarantine before them, the city authorities determined to overstep their legal authority and take charge of all the cases in the immediate vicinity of the city. The cases are to be removed to the pesthouse, and isolation of suspects and disinfection of houses, etc., to be done as in the city proper. With this agreement on the part of the city people we left, but I am to return to make inspection of the methods used and supervise the work. I hope to be able to make this visit early next week. The conditions in the county are at present unknown, as no inspection has been made. The colored supervisor, S. A. Morse, bears marks on his face of recently having had the disease. I am informed that he keeps a country store, and that he attended his store while broken out with eruption. If this is the case he has doubtless spread the disease among his customers, and it is hard to estimate the extent of the infection, as no precautions whatsoever have been taken, no isolation of cases, or disinfection of houses. It will be seen that the conditions are about as bad as it is possible for them to be. I arrived at Norfolk the same evening, and on Thursday, 27th instant, I visited and inspected Craney Island in accordance with your verbal instructions. I inclose herewith a separate report on Craney Island. On Friday I visited Berkley and saw one of the supervisors of Norfolk County, and arranged with him to have the supervisors meet Dr. Irving and myself in Portsmouth on Monday next, May 1, for a conference on the smallpox situation. The supervisor that I saw, Mr. Tilley, seemed to think that his board would be willing to take any action that we would recommend for the suppression of smallpox. I am informed that smallpox has appeared in Isle of Wight County and at Roanoke, Va. I will also visit these places if necessary. With the exceptions of Warwick County and Norfolk County, where the conditions are unqualifiedly bad, the conditions in the cities seem to be improving. I have been furnished the following report:

Norfolk, April 29, 1899 :

Cases in pesthouse.....	53
Cases in city (guarded).....	1
Suspects isolated.....	51
New cases during last seven days.....	18
Total cases to date.....	891

Berkley, April 27, 1899:

Cases in city.....	12
New cases in city in past seven days.....	8

All negro cases sent to county pesthouse.

Portsmouth, April 29, 1899:

In pesthouse.....	45
New cases during last seven days.....	15
Total cases to date.....	272

Newport News, April 25, 1899:

In pesthouse.....	69
In city, guarded.....	3
New cases in last seven days.....	13

Norfolk County. Health officer reports under date of April 24, 1899; first case reported March 12, 1898:

Number of cases to date about.....	1,200
Number of cases in county at present.....	299
Deaths.....	39

Population, 50,000; 50 per cent vaccinated.

Elizabeth City County, including Hampton, April 19, 1899; first case reported January 10, 1899:

Number of cases to date.....	110
Deaths.....	0
Total cases in city and county at present.....	3

Respectfully, yours,

C. P. WERTENBAKER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Cerebro-spinal meningitis—Abstract of replies received to circular requesting information.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

CALIFORNIA—*Eureka*.—No cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis or spotted fever have occurred at this port or in the northern portion of the State so far as known. Some sporadic cases have been reported in the middle and southern portions of the State. No investigations are known to have been made in regard to the etiology of the disease.

Table of cases and deaths of cerebro-spinal meningitis in California from October 1, 1898, to April 22, 1899.

Name of town.	Name of county when included.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.	Origin.	Etiology.	Pathology.	Result of any investigation.
Biggs.....	Biggs County.....	1	1	.....	(a)	(b)	(c)
Daguer.....	Daguer County.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Elsinore.....	Riverside County.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eureka.....	Eureka County.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kelseyville.....	Lake County.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
San Jose.....	San Jose County.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
San Rafael.....	Marin County.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Santa Barbara.....	Santa Barbara.....	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sacramento.....	Sacramento Co.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Woodland.....	Yolo County.....	3	3	(d)	.....	.....	.....

a None given.

b None given.

c No investigation.

d Sporadic.

KENTUCKY—*Elizabethtown*.—Cerebro-spinal meningitis is reported as having again developed.